

Man Sets 280 Traps, Hopes He Doesn't Catch Anything

A trapper has been operating within this area during the past few months, but this man hasn't caught anything and hopes he doesn't.

The trapper in question is R. B. McGowen of the State Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Entomology, whose job is working from the Los Angeles office of the Multiple Fruit Fly Trapping program. Some 280 traps have been set up throughout this area to look for four pesky insects—the oriental fruit moth, the melon fly, the Mediterranean fruit fly, and the Mexican fruit fly.

No Pests Caught

Fortunately, McGowen's traps have caught none of these pests, which are expected to arrive sometime in the future. Their arrival probably will cost millions of dollars in fruit loss and damage, unless a satisfactory control can be developed in the meantime.

The Mexican fruit fly has been found in northern Mexico and along the southern border of California, but the other three varieties have not yet reached California to anyone's knowledge. They are found in Florida, however.

Mexican Native

According to the Mexican Fruit Fly control service, the Mexican fruit fly is native of northeastern Mexico, where

for 100 years it has been known as the "orange worm." It feeds on wild and cultivated fruits including grapefruit, pear, mango, orange, apple, peach, pomegranate, quince, sapote, chapote, and others. It has caused periodic damage in Texas groves since 1927.

Starting in 1953, however, the fly became a threat in the area of Mexico just south of California. Fruit near Hermosillo, Mex., has become infested and the fly cannot be eradicated. In 1954, three tons of mangos from Mexico were found in the markets at Tijuana and Mexicali. At one time, Tijuana was considered to have a light infestation, but this has since been almost eliminated.

Activities Intensified

Fly trapping and fruit inspection activities have been intensified since then. A small foothold of the fly at San Ysidro was wiped out and U. S. and Mexican authorities started a campaign in Baja California. A protective spray program was started along the border in San Diego and Imperial Counties, declared "eradication areas."

All host and suitable non-host trees in a five-mile wide strip along the border from the Pacific to Jacumba, California, have been sprayed with a bait insecticide spray at

three-week intervals. More drastic measures were taken at San Ysidro, where the flies were found. In some cases, fruit from the infested trees was destroyed. Generally, host fruits were kept on the trees to act as traps and are inspected for maggots when ripe.

Mixture Kills Fly

To fight the fly, the latest method is mixing yeast to attract the fly and malathion to kill him.

Constant vigilance is required to watch for the fly with trapping and fruit inspection constantly going on.

According to McGowen, authorities hope that this program will keep the introduction of the flies delayed, although they think it inevitable that the insects someday will gain a secure foothold. In the meantime, they are busy trying to make an effective control for the flies.

Wings Bended

The adult fruit fly is larger than a housefly and more colorful. The body is yellowish brown and the wings are hand-

Signal Bowled Over By Hit-Run Driver

A hit-and-run driver knocked over a traffic signal on the corner of Cypress and Pacific Coast Hwy. Tuesday, according to sheriff's deputies.

The crash knocked the electric signal over onto a car for sale on the lot of Lomita Auto Sales, also located on the corner.

ed with yellow and brown markings.

Damage is done by the maggot of the fly, which passes through four stages—eggs, maggots, pupa, and adult. The adult lays its eggs on the fruit.

Some 1000 traps have been set out in Southern California, and 280 in this area, but have caught nothing this year. Last year, a single melon fly was found in a trap at UCLA. This accounts for the intense search going on in the area now.

LAWNS MOWED

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A Month CALL: FA 8-1453

Judy Simmons Heads Frosh

North High School freshman elected Judy Simmons class president in recent elections. Other officers on the freshman cabinet are Jo Ainsworth, vice president; Cheril Saunders, secretary; Judy Ogawa, treasurer; Patsy Okada, Girls' League representative, and Dennis Schirmer, Boys' League representative.

liaison between the Student Body and her class. Judy is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Morgan B. Simmons, of 17420 Falda.

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(Herald Photo) UNUSUAL TRAPPER . . . R. B. McGowen, State Department of Agriculture employe, puts up a trap for Mexican fruit flies, but he hopes he doesn't catch any. He keeps a constant watch for the insect, which causes tremendous damage to fruit in areas where it is found.

For Classified Results **Fact Finding Group Seeks GOP Hopeful**

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44

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The fact-finding committee of the 17th Congressional District Republican County Central Committee will meet Monday, Nov. 4.

This meeting will be held to hear the first group of prospective candidates for the 1958 elections.

The meeting will take place at 7:30 p.m. in Room 8 of the Administration Building at El Camino College, 16007 South Crenshaw Bly.

Charles Soderstrom, chairman of the 17th Congressional District Republican Central Committee of Los Angeles County, will conduct the meeting.

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